**Development of agricultural sector**

†3014. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foundation of the country's development depends upon the development of agricultural sector;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that water management has not been given a place in the set up of basic facilities for the development; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agriculture continues to be a crucial sector of the Indian economy. Though State Governments are responsible for the implementation of policies and programmes for development of agriculutre in their respective States, the Union Government has accorded high priority for revitalisation of agriculture sector and bringing improvement in the condition of farmers under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the UPA Government. The Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector and improving the condition of farmers. The strategies formulated, *inter alia*, include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timley availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation, watershed development projects and measures for water conservation for enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system;(vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No, Sir. The NCMP states that Water Management in all its aspects, both for irrigation and drinking purposes, will receive urgent attention. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address at the 52nd Meeting of National Development Council on 9th December, 2006, has also urged Chief Minister to give high priority to ensuring efficient use of resources in the vital area of water management.

(d) Does not arise.

**Irrigated agriculture land**

†3015. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been set during the Tenth Five Year Plan to increase the extent of irrigated land;

(b) if so, what was the target; and

(c) the percentage of target achieved therefrom till March, 2006 and percentage of land out of the total agriculture land in the country to be irrigated by the end of Tenth five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A target of creation of 16 774 million hectare of irrigation potential was set for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The target was revised to 10.5 million hectare at the time of Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) An irrigation potential of 7.02 million hectare *i.e.* about 67% of the revised target has been achieved till March, 2006.

According to the Land Use Statistics for 2003-04 compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, the net sown area in the country is estimated to be 140.88 million hectare and net irrigated area is 55.10 million hectare *i.e.* 39.1%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.